THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) (a) 37480 Anganwadi Centers are functioning in Orissa at present.

(b) Package of six services *i.e.* supplementary nutrition, immunization, Health check-up, referral services, nutrition and health education and non-formal education are provided in Anganwadi Centres under the ICDS Scheme. Apart from these, the State Government has taken steps for construction of Anganwadi Centres and provision of drinking water and toilet facilities in these Centres.

(c) Government of India released (from 2001-02 to 2006-07) Rs. 60107.96 lakh including carry over balance of 2000-01. The State Government has utilized Rs. 56137.58 lakh as on 31.12.06 (including carryover balance of 2000-01). As on 1.1.2007, the State Government had a balance of Rs. 3970.38 lakh.

(d) In all 30 districts, CDPO at Block level, DSWO at District level and Women and Child Development Department at State level, monitor the ICDS programme in Orissa.

Malnutrition and hunger among Indian children

121. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Indian children are worse than the UN's sub-Saharan poster boy with rickety arms, swollen belly and protruding eyes symbolizing malnutrition and hunger;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the prevalence of malnutrition among children in India is the highest in the world despite a high economic growth of eight per cent every year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what concrete steps Government propose to take to strengthen the ICDS and give stress on more nutritious and balanced food for children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) (a) Government are aware that 47% children are underweight as per National

Family Health Survey (NFHS)-II. While being underweight for their age they look normal and do not exhibit such severe symptoms.

(b) The high prevalence of malnutrition among children has been engaging the attention of Government.

(c) Malnutrition is a multi-faceted problem, the determinants of which vary from female illiteracy, age of girls at marriage and the first child birth, household food insecurity, poor access to health care, immunization, safe drinking water, sanitation and other social services, The Government is seized of the problem and is implementing a number of schemes to improve the nutritional status of children.

(d) The steps taken in the recent past to increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services under ICDS are:

(i) Operationalization of Projects/Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) sanctioned in the IX Plan.

(ii) Expansion of the ICDS Scheme to 466 ICDS Projects and 1.88 lakh AWCs under 1st Phase of expansion.

(iii) Further expansion of ICDS Scheme to 173 Projects, 107274 AWCs and 25961 Mini-AWCs under 2nd phase of expansion.

(iv) Doubling of financial norms for supplementary nutrition from Rs. 1 to Rs. 2/- per beneficiary per day.

(v) Sharing of 50% cost of supplementary nutrition with the States/ UTs.

(vi) Providing 50% of Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA) of micronutrients through supplementary food.

(vii) Constant emphasis on States/UTs to:

(a) Ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms and

(b) Ensure delivery of other services *viz.* immunization, health check-up, referral, services, nutrition and health education and pre-primary education through effective convergence

with the Schemes/Programmes of Ministry of Health, Education and Rural Development (Drinking water Supply).

(viii) To strengthen the existing monitoring and supervision mechanism for ICDS Scheme, the Government of India has approved setting up of a Central Monitoring Unit (CMU) at National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), which would monitor the Scheme through independent professional organisation/institution in each State/ UT. This would be in addition to the monitoring mechanism in place at present.

(ix) A National level Monitoring Committee has been set up under the Chairpersonship of MOS(WCD) to oversee the entire functioning of ICDS Scheme and to ensure that the services are delivered to the target groups in an effective manner and the objectives of the scheme are fulfilled within the overall framework of the ICDS Scheme.

Safety and security of children

122. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any law/regulation exists for ensuring safety and security of children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether instances have surfaced recently where thousands of children from various parts of the country, particularly hailing from socially and economically weaker sections of the society, have gone missing;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken to ensure safety and security of children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) (a) and (b) Several provisions are available under different legislations of the country for the safety and security of children. A list of such legislations is given in Statement-I (*See* below).